

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A stream converting method, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

separating a first transport stream (TS) into a first TS packet string formed from TS packets that have a prescribed packet identifier of at least one of video data and audio data, and a second TS packet string formed from TS packets that do not have the prescribed packet identifier;

converting a bit rate of the first TS packet string so as to produce a third TS packet string; and

multiplexing the produced third TS packet string and the second TS packet string so as to produce a second transport stream.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The stream converting method according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

extracting reference time information from the first transport stream so as to produce reference time from the reference time information;

determining, with reference to the reference time, time of receipt of a TS packet including a head byte of a PES packet in the first TS packet string as first time of receipt;

determining, with reference to the reference time, time of receipt of a head byte of each TS packet forming the second TS packet string as second time of receipt; and

delaying the reference time by a prescribed time so as to produce delayed reference time, and in that the packet multiplexing step includes the steps of

selecting from the third TS packet string a TS packet corresponding to the first time of receipt for output as the second transport stream, when the delayed reference time matches the first time of receipt, and

selecting from the second TS packet string a TS packet corresponding to the second time of receipt for output as the second transport stream, when the delayed reference time matches the second time of receipt.

4. (Previously presented) A stream recording method, characterized in that is comprises the steps of:

separating a first transport stream into a first TS packet string formed from TS packets that have a prescribed packet identifier of at least one of video data and audio data, and a second TS packet string formed from TS packets that do not have the prescribed packet identifier;

converting a bit rate of the first TS packet string so as to produce a third TS packet string;

multiplexing the produced third TS packet string and the second TS packet string so as to produce a second transport stream;

extracting reference time information from the first transport stream, and delaying reference time represented by the reference time information by a prescribed time so as to produce delayed reference time; and

determining, with reference to the delayed reference time, time of receipt of each TS packet forming the second transport stream, and recording the second transport stream together with the determined time of receipt onto a recording medium.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Currently Amended) The stream recording method according to claim 4 [[or 5]], characterized in that the recording medium is an optical disk.
8. (Previously presented) A stream converting apparatus, characterized in that is comprises:
 - a packet separating section for separating a first transport stream into a first TS packet string formed from TS packets that have a prescribed packet identifier of at least one of video data and audio data, and a second TS packet string formed from TS packets that do not have the prescribed packet identifier;
 - a bit-rate converting section for converting a bit rate of the first TS packet string so as to produce a third TS packet string; and
 - a packet multiplexing section for multiplexing the third TS packet string output from the bit-rate converting section and the second TS packet string output from the packet separating section so as to produce a second transport stream.
9. (Previously presented) A stream recording apparatus, characterized in that is comprises:
 - a packet separating section for separating a first transport stream into a first TS packet string formed from TS packets that have a prescribed packet identifier of at least one of video data and audio data, and a second TS packet string formed from TS packets that do not have the prescribed packet identifier;

a bit-rate converting section for converting a bit rate of the first TS packet string so as to produce a third TS packet string;

a packet multiplexing section for multiplexing the third TS packet string output from the bit-rate converting section and the second TS packet string output from the packet separating section so as to produce a second transport stream;

a means for extracting reference time information from the first transport stream, and delaying reference time represented by the reference time information by a prescribed time so as to produce delayed reference time; and

a recording control section for determining, with reference to the delayed reference time, time of receipt of each TS packet forming the second transport stream, and recording the second transport stream together with the determined time of receipt onto a recording medium.

10. (Cancelled)